1985 with the objective of preventing the pollution of river Ganga and to improve its water quality. The Plan was completed on 31.03.2000. Against a target capacity of 873 million litres per day planned for treatment of waste water, a capacity to treat 865 million litres per day has been created. Out of an approved cost of Rs. 462.04 crore, an amount of Rs. 451.70 crore has been spent on the Plan.

The Ganga Action Plan Phase II that covers Ganga and its triubutaries *viz.*, Yamuna, Gomati and Damodar was approved in phases between 1993 and 1996 and is under implementation. Under this Plan, against a target capacity of 1860 million litre per day for treatment of waste water a capacity to treat 724 million litres per day has been created so far. Out of the approved cost of 1498.86 crore, an amount of about Rs 610 crore has been spent so far. Regular interaction with the concerned State Governments/ implementing agencies by way of holding periodic meetings, field visits and monitoring of progress of works is done for timely completion of the Plan, by December 2005.

Making steel plant eco-friendly

4705. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI P. PRABHKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, besides production of steel, is doing examplary work in growing trees all around the compound sheltering rare birds and wild animals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of 22000 acres of land allotted to the Plant, 8000 acres of land has been turned out in green area by the Officials;

(c) if so, what is the position regarding other National Steel Plants for making their area green; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to make all the steel plants eco-friendly?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The afforestation work done by the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has been nationally recognized and the Plant was awarded the Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Award in1991.

(c) and (d) All the National Steel Plants have drawn up short-term and long-term Environmental Management Plans for pollution abatement and creation of good work environment.

National Green Corps

4706. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have started a new scheme of National Green Corps;

(b) if so, what is the progress of the scheme so far; and

(c) what is the response to the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Government decided to intensify the Eco-clubs programme to raise the National Green Corps, covering at least 100 schools in each district of the country. While the Governments of all the States and Union Territories responded positively to implement the intensified programme, funds to the extent of Rs. 5.57 crores were sanctioned during 2001-02 to 31 States and Union Territories for setting up of Eco-clubs, for teachers' training and resource material.

Encroachment of forest lands by non-tribal in Kerala

4707. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have received any report regarding encroachment of forest lands in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have asked for any report from Kerala Government regarding the reported encroachment of vested forest in